

# **Section 9**

## **Lead Toxicity Guidelines**

## **Lead Toxicity**

Lead poisoning poses a serious health hazard to children. In extreme cases it can be fatal.

Lead can be found in peeling lead-based paint (those homes or buildings built before 1978), dust, dirt and tap water.

Children between the ages of six months and six years of age are at greatest risk because:

- 1) They have a greater tendency to put contaminated items in their mouths.
- 2) Lead is more quickly absorbed by a young child's body.

Lead poisoning can lead to:

- Developmental delays
- Brain Damage
- Stunted growth
- Hyperactivity
- Behavior problem(s)
- Death (in extreme cases)

### **Blood Lead Screening Plan for Chicago\***

\*Chicago Department of Public Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
Updated 8/08

#### **Screening Guidelines for Children 6 months of age through 3 years.**

Perform blood lead testing as follows:

- 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months  
OR
- 9 months, 15 months, 24 months, 36 months ( use schedule if blood draws are difficult at 6 months).

#### **Screening Guidelines for Children 4 years to 6 years old.**

Perform blood lead testing yearly or anytime environmental changes occur.

**Note:** A child 4 years to 6 years of age with at least two annual tests less than 10 mcg/dL does not need a blood lead test unless:

- The child has moved to a home that was built before 1978 that has peeling or chipping paint or recent renovation or remodeling; or
- The child has continued oral behavior (e.g., thumb-sucking, placing toys or objects in mouth.)

**Screening Guidelines for Children with Abnormal Blood Lead Level (≥10mcg/dL)**

<b>Blood Lead Screening Levels</b>	<b>Age of Child</b>	<b>Follow-up Testing Interval</b>
10 mcg/dL – 14 mcg/dL	6 mos. To 6 years	Retest in 3 months
15 mcg/dL – 19 mcg/dL	6 mos. To 6 years	Retest in 1 to 3 months
20 mcg/dL – 44 mcg/dL	6 mos. To 6 years	Confirm in one week. Retest in 1 to 3 months
45 mcg/dL – 69 mcg/dL	6 mos. To 6 years	Confirm in 48 hours. Retest in 1 month or based on physician evaluation
≥ 70 mcg/dL	6 mos. To 6 years	Confirm immediately Immediate hospitalization Retest in 1 month or based on physician evaluation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Managing Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Young Children: Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Atlanta: CDC; 2002.